

# MEMO

**DATE:** January 6, 2005

**TO:** The Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC)

**FROM:** Sina Zarifi, Senior Regional Transportation Planner  
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**SUBJECT:** Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) Overview

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## SUMMARY:

The Los Angeles – San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) is responsible for coordination of planning and programs that increase ridership, revenue, reliability, and safety on the coastal rail line from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles to San Diego. An overview of the Agency and its activities is presented by Linda Culp, Senior Transportation Planner with SANDAG.

## BACKGROUND:

Recognizing the critical need to improve the safety, reliability, capacity, and customer experience along the entire corridor, the LOSSAN rail corridor agency was formed in 1989. Known as Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner* corridor, it is the second busiest intercity passenger rail corridor nationwide, with a record 2.2 million passengers in FY 2005. One in every nine Amtrak passengers uses the *Surfliner* corridor. This corridor also is shared with Metrolink and Coaster commuter rail service and freight (Coaster service operates between Oceanside and downtown San Diego).

LOSSAN's member agencies represent rail owners, operators, and regional transportation planning agencies along the entire six county, 351-mile corridor. A LOSSAN membership roster is provided as Attachment A. SCAG is an ex-officio member of LOSSAN and was critical in establishing the agency in 1989.

LOSSAN and its member agencies have a history of providing capital and operating funds to the entire corridor. The State of California has provided more than \$1 billion in improvements, Amtrak has contributed \$200 million, and local agencies have contributed \$300 million in the corridor since the 1970s.

Despite success at funding, securing rail funds remains a challenge for LOSSAN as well as its member agencies. An Amtrak-sponsored plan in 2001 identified more than \$4 billion in improvements along the entire LOSSAN corridor, two-thirds of which is currently single-track. A key theme to LOSSAN and its efforts is that improvements in any portion of the corridor will mean improvements to intercity, commuter, and freight rail services. The LOSSAN Joint Powers Board meets quarterly and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets generally every other month.



# LOSSAN

(LOS ANGELES-SAN DIEGO-SAN LUIS OBISPO RAIL CORRIDOR AGENCY)

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## MEMBERSHIP

*This board is composed of current and former elected officials representing rail owners, operators, and planning agencies along Amtrak's Pacific Surfliner corridor between San Diego and San Luis Obispo. LOSSAN is staffed by SANDAG. The objective of the agency is to coordinate planning and programs that increase ridership, revenue, reliability, and safety on the coastal rail line from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles to San Diego.*

*The Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency meets every quarter.*

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### MEMBERS

**Chair: Arthur Brown**  
Orange County Transportation Authority

**Vice Chair: Jacki Bacharach**  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Julianne Nygaard**  
North County Transit Development Board

**Chris Norby**  
Orange County Transportation Authority

**Beatrice Proo**  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

**Jerry Rindone**  
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

**Joe Kellejian**  
San Diego Association of Governments

**Bill Davis**  
Ventura County Transportation Commission

**Joni Gray**  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

**John Shoals**  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

**Warren Weber**  
Caltrans, Division of Rail

### ALTERNATES

**Harry Mathis**  
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

**Brian Humphrey**  
Ventura County Transportation Commission

**Susan Rose**  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

**Fred Munroe**  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

**Ann Kulchin**  
North County Transit Development Board

**Ex Officio Member**

**Richard Dixon**  
Southern California Association of Governments

**Additional Technical Advisory Committee Members**

Amtrak

Burlington Northern Santa Fe

California Public Utilities Commission

Southern California Regional Rail Authority

Union Pacific

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*Revised: September 13, 2004*